

as midshipmen. The summer also helps the new midshipmen prepare for the rigors of the academic year by teaching them organization, time management, and teamwork.

The second phase administered during the academic year, allows 4/c midshipmen to strengthen and expand their knowledge of the Naval Service, understand the basic tenets of leadership, and comprehend Academy objectives. The Plebe Professional Program complements the Academic Program. Physical Education and Intramural Programs build a commitment to lifelong physical fitness.

During the May Intercessional Period, after final exams, the Plebe class undergoes "Sea Trials." This year, Sea Trials was held on 18 May 2004. Sea Trials is a fourteen-hour, extended obstacle, endurance, and skills course based on the Marine Corps "Crucible" and the Navy's "Battle Stations." The course is developed by upper-class midshipmen in order to test the plebes in the areas of teamwork, physical strength and endurance, problem-solving, and practical naval skills and knowledge. This culminating event challenges the Plebe class to draw from the entire previous year's training and education in order to make it through the day successfully.

At the end of Plebe year, the Herndon Monument climb takes place. The goal of the ceremony is for Plebes to take the Plebe Dixie cover (blue-rimmed cap) off the top of the monument and replace it with an upper-class cover. The Class of 2007 climbed Herndon on 20 May 2004 in 2 hours, 19 minutes. Midshipman (b) (6) from the Class of 2007 removed the plebe cover and replaced it with an upper-class cover. According to Naval Academy tradition, the midshipman who replaces the cover will go on to become that class' first admiral. The day's events concluded with VADM Rodney Rempt, USN, Superintendent of the Naval Academy, bestowing admiral's shoulder boards to Midshipman (b) (6). This year, a change was made to the promotion status of the plebes. Following completion of the Herndon climb, a